

title 42 policy at our southern border. We cannot continue these hateful and xenophobic Trump policies that disregard our refugee laws. We must allow asylum seekers to present their claims at our ports of entry and be afforded due process.

I commit to work with this administration to provide resources so that we can establish safe, orderly, and humane processes for those seeking protections. Again, the policies that are being enacted now and the horrible treatment of these innocent people who have come to the border must stop immediately.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDER—S. 2765

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2765) to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

TAXES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the senior House Democrat told us back in March of 2020 that COVID presented “a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.”

President Biden said last week that “while this pandemic has been godawful for so many reasons . . . it does present us with an opportunity.”

The reckless taxing-and-spending spree that Washington Democrats are assembling behind closed doors would put more debt, more borrowing, and

more inflation on the shoulders of American families. It would make Washington, DC, dramatically more involved in families’ childcare, their health coverage, their local energy utilities, and on and on.

There are so many controversial changes being crammed into one mega bill that it must be a deliberate strategy: try to achieve everything the far left has wanted for 20 years in one fell swoop before the country has time to realize what hit it.

So today, I am going to focus on just one example. Let’s look at the tax hikes, a staggering historic set of tax hikes; tax hikes on small business, tax hikes on family farms, tax hikes on Americans that would shatter the pledge to spare people earning less than \$400,000 a year, tax hikes that would put even more Americans into unfair double taxation of the death tax, massive taxes on the U.S. economy that would give us one of the least competitive tax structures in the developed world.

For example, even Communist China taxes their own businesses significantly less than President Biden and his allies want America to tax ours.

Tax hike after tax hike after tax hike—a smothering wet blanket thrown onto an economy that is already struggling to fully recover because of the inflation and worker shortages that Democrats’ policies have already unleashed.

So when you add it all up, Democrats want to ram through one of the largest peacetime tax hikes on record, if not the single largest. So let me say that again. Behind closed doors, Washington Democrats are drafting what may very well be the largest peacetime tax hike that our country has literally ever seen.

But this isn’t to say that nobody gets a leg up in this bill. So listen to this. Somehow, mysteriously, many of the Democrats’ favorite groups and special interests come out just fine. Isn’t that fascinating?

For example, their legislation would allow ordinary Americans’ charitable deduction on top of the standard deduction to expire. Ah, but they would replace it with a brandnew tax break of almost exactly the same dollar amount for union dues that go to Big Labor. So you take out a charitable deduction for regular Americans, put in a new one for union dues that would benefit Big Labor. They are scrapping Americans’ extra deduction for donating to charity and replacing it with a special subsidy for union dues for Big Labor.

Really, you can’t make this stuff up. Sorry, Red Cross. Sorry, local churches and houses of worship. Sorry, soup kitchens. Democrats think the Teamsters and the SEIU need the money more than you do.

And they aren’t the only group that Democrats favor, who literally make out like bandits. Look at high-income earners in coastal blue States. The bill that raises taxes on everything that

moves somehow—somehow—makes room for a special, gigantic tax cut for wealthy people who choose to live in high-tax States. More than half the benefit of the so-called SALT policy would go to the top 1 percent of households.

There is also a special tax break for people who choose to purchase expensive electric cars. You get the picture: make U.S. industry less competitive than China in order to massively subsidize the coastal cosmopolitan lifestyle. That is what the Democrats want.

This bill would also create a new national dragnet for ordinary Americans’ banking information. Community banks and credit unions would be hammered with new requirements to report to the feds whenever citizens make transactions—listen to this—in excess of \$600. Community banks and credit unions would have new requirements to report to the Federal Government whenever citizens make transactions in excess of \$600.

Big Brother wants to peer into America’s bank accounts. Here is how one local Kentucky lender described this concept to me: a “flagrant violation of privacy and offense to liberty.”

That pretty well sums it up. So, huge tax hikes on Americans, expensive giveaways for coastal elites, and new government snooping—snooping—into families’ finances.

So that is just one corner of this reckless taxing-and-spending spree that should never see the light of day.

ELECTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a different matter. Last week, Senate Democrats announced what was marketed as a compromise on carving out a bigger role for Washington in elections all across our country.

It was hardly the first time our Democratic colleagues had given their takeover of 50 States’ election laws a makeover. Over the years, it has sometimes been sold as an urgent overhaul of our democracy; other times as just a set of narrow tweaks. But for all of their attempts to change up the pitch, the unfortunate fact is that the bones of the Democrats’ proposal are still the same.

The latest version is only a compromise in the sense that the center left compromised with the far left. Under the hood is the same Frankenstein’s monster that has been there since 2019, years—years—before the State-level actions which Democrats now claim have made it all necessary.

It still makes Washington bureaucrats the de facto board of elections for all 50 States, dictating the terms of things like automatic and same-day voter registration. It still insists on impeding State efforts to ensure integrity of voter rolls through popular, commonsense voter ID measures. It still has government dollars going directly to politicians’ campaigns—that